

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-10 and 15-27 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 6, 15, 21 and 22 are independent. Claim 6 has been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 15-16, 21-22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,281,955B1 to Midorikawa et al. (Midorikawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,221,543B1 to Guehler et al. (Guehler). Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected over Midorikawa in view of Guehler, and further in view of Kashiwazaki, claims 5 and 10 stand rejected over Midorikawa in view of Guehler as applied to claims 1 and 6, and further in view of Murade, and claims 17 and 23 stand rejected over Midorikawa in view of Guehler as applied to claims 15 and 22 and further in view of Kashiwazaki. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the "Response to Arguments" the Examiner states the Midorikawa teaches that a color filter 24a-c contacts both the source and drain electrodes 18 and 20 at the edge portions of the source and drain electrodes. The Examiner's recitation of the Applicant's claim in the "Response to Arguments" neither recites the claim language exactly, nor correctly paraphrases the meaning thereof.

Applicant notes that this is the second application of the Midorikawa reference by the Examiner during the prosecution history of this case. In an Office Action dated July 17, 2002, the Examiner asserted that Midorikawa teaches "*a color filter overlapping only edge portions of the source and drain electrodes*". In an Amendment filed on October 17, 2002, Applicant amended the claims 1, 6, 15, 21 and 22 to recite "a color filter contacting the source and drain electrodes only at a portion where said color filter layer is overlapping only edge portions of the source and drain electrodes".

In an Advisory Action dated November 1, 2002, the Examiner stated that claims 1, 6, 15, 21 and 22 raise the following new issue: "contacting the source and drain electrodes only at a portion where color filter is overlapping only edge portions of the source and the drain electrodes", which requires further search. Applicant filed a Continuation (RCE).

In the next Office Action (December 26, 2002), the Examiner applied a new art grounds of rejection, U.S. Patent No. 6,111,623A to Sato, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,221,543B1 to Guehler et al. (Guehler) in rejecting claims 1, 6, 15, 21 and 22. The Examiner asserted that Guehler discloses a color filter layer 11RGB "*contacting the source and drain electrodes only at the portion where said color filter is overlapping only edge portions of the source and drain electrodes*". In an Amendment filed on March 14, 2003, the Applicant pointed out that the color filter of Sato fails to contact both the source electrode 7 and the drain electrode 8,

and amended the claims to recite a color filter layer, contacting the both the source and drain electrodes, wherein said contacting is only at a portion where said color filter layer is overlapping only edge portions of the source and the drain electrodes. In the current Office Action, the Sato reference has now been withdrawn.

However, Midorikawa has been applied again! Midorikawa was overcome by the October 17, 2002 Amendment. This is apparently an oversight by the Examiner. It is very clear that color filters 24a-c (shown in various patterns) contact the source and drain electrodes not only at the edge portions, but virtually at every portion except small portions where there are contact holes. The color filters literally blanket the source and drain electrodes (see FIGs.1 and 2).

Additional support for the Applicant's position is provided Col.3 lines 22-41 and Col.4, lines 37-41 of Midorikawa. In this portion, Midorikawa provides that each of the color filters 24a, 24b and 24c has an overlapping portion with the other at its one end (blanket coverage). Further, there is no layer between the color filter 24 and the pixel electrode 30, and therefore there is no motivation to insert the layer of Guehler into a portion of the device of Midorikawa where no layer is required.

The claim amendments of March 14, 2003 still overcome Midorikawa. They were not a departure from the previous amendment, but rather, served to emphasize the points of contact (only edge portions) with greater clarity. In view of

this, and the additional comments supplied above, Midorikawa cannot be validly applied again. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this art grounds of rejection with respect to all claims thereto applied, is respectfully requested.

Claim 6

With regard to independent claim 6, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a method of forming liquid crystal display (LCD) device, including forming a semiconductor layer, aligned relative to the gate electrode, on the insulating layer, the semiconductor layer having a pure semiconductor layer on the insulating layer and a doped semiconductor layer on the pure semiconductor layer, and etching a portion of the doped semiconductor layer after forming the color filter layer. Applicant respectfully submits that these features are neither disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record, including Midorikawa.

Consideration and allowance of independent claim 6 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant points out that all of the Examiner's comments have been addressed and that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome, thereby placing all claims pending in the present Application in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

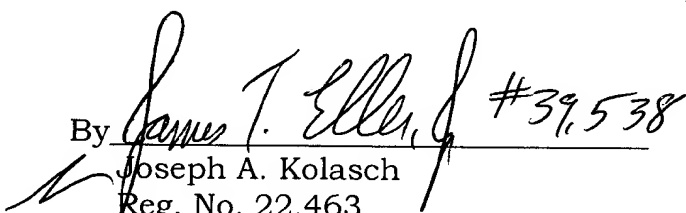
In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Percy L. Square, Reg. No. 51,084 at (703) 205-8034 to discuss such matters.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

 #39,538
Joseph A. Kolasch
Reg. No. 22,463


JAK/PLS:asc
3430-0138P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000